

RECORDING OF PROCEEDINGS

Wyoming Board of Agriculture Minutes
November 30, 2006
Wyoming Department of Agriculture Conference Room

Members Present:

Spencer Ellis, President
Jack Corson, Vice President
Helen Jones
Lee Otto
Jim Mickelson
Gene Hardy
David Graham
John Etchepare, Director, WY Dept. of Agriculture
Patrick Zimmerer

Members Absent:

David Largent
Dalin Winters
Emily Horton Frank Galey, Dean, UW College of Agriculture
Paige Smith, Governor Freudenthal's Office

WDA Staff Present:

Muff Parker, Recording Secretary
Jim Schwartz, Deputy Director

Meeting was called to order by President Ellis.

Approval of Minutes

Helen Jones made a motion to approve the minutes from the August 18, September 6, September 20, October 4, October 18, November 1, and November 15, 2006 meetings. Seconded by Gene Hardy. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Legislation Review

John felt Senator Mier would still like to see a larger board to better represent the larger producing counties, but he didn't feel Senator Mier would oppose the bill as presented. Helen Jones talked with Senator Hines and his is not in favor of the bill because he feels it's growing government.

John gave an update on the recommendations from the Bio Security Task Force. The only level 3 lab is on the 4th floor of the Hathaway building. Pathogens are being transported through public areas to get them up to the lab. The task force feels there is a huge need to move it out of the Hathaway. Capitol Construction is presently reviewing a plan to move it. He explained a Diagnostic level 3 lab is not as restrictive as a Research level 3 lab, which limits the security level to a minimum.

Jim Magagna reviewed the Eminent Domain Bill. The Board gave Jim some of the concerns they had. Jim talked about some of the things the industry felt they had to have in the new bill, with some of those concerns the current bill does not address. The group working on the bill has not reached consensus on the six amendments, at this point. Jim said the bill represents a lot of negotiations and comprise on all parts.

Keith Kenedy explained the functions and interaction with other industry by the Wheat Marketing Commission. He updated the members with the ongoing difficulties experienced with Nebraska's elevators. They collect Nebraska assessment on all wheat, but not from the Wyoming growers.

Wyoming elevators do collect the Nebraska assessment for their wheat. Wyoming is loosing upwards of 20 thousand dollars per year on those assessments.

Hank Uhden explained the legislation regarding the Seed Law. The Joint Ag committee asked that the statutes be updated along with the nursery stock law. Both have been updated in the form of legislation and are being sponsored by the committee. Hank also talked about primacy. Wyoming does not have primacy. John feels we as a state regulator need to make sure we give everyone the tools needed to prevent us (the state) from having to have primacy. He also discussed the pesticide applicators regulations. The bill to be before the legislators says the applicator has to be within 100 miles. He also reviewed the status of the rules on seed and elevators. There could also be a bill coming up this session regarding grain buyers.

Chad Curry talked about the Predatory Animal Districts' funding. Currently six of them have been approved. At the next ADMB conference call on December 7, four more will be discussed for funding. He said three more are in the preliminary planning stages. He and Hank are going to be visiting several of the districts in the month of December to explain the program and answer any questions they may have. Jack asked Chad to send out the status of each of the counties to the members. As of January Chad believes seventeen of the twenty three counties should be on board. Rod with USFWS has indicated to him they will not have the funding to do a 50/50 cost share on any new trappers the districts bring on board.

There being no further business, meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Spencer Ellis, President

Date

Attachment:
Attendance sheet